

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Transportation Services
March 9, 2023

Report of the Commissioner of Public Works

Bicycle Lane Designations City of Markham and Towns of Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville

1. Recommendations

1. Lane Designation Bylaw 2020-53 be amended to designate bicycle lanes in the City of Markham and Towns of Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville, as detailed in Table 1.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of the City of Markham, Towns of Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville and Chief of York Regional Police.
3. The Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary bylaws.

2. Summary

This report seeks Council approval to designate bicycle lanes within the designated portions of the highway for Ninth Line in the City of Markham and Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Prospect Street in the Town of Newmarket, as detailed in Table 1. Amendments to the Lane Designation Bylaw are necessary to support these proposed cycling improvements.

Key Points:

- Designating bicycle lanes requires a bylaw approved by Council
- Designating bicycle lanes on Ninth Line and Prospect Street will help provide a safer environment for cyclists and provide a connection to existing dedicated bicycle lanes
- Installation of on-street signage and pavement markings will be completed in spring of 2023

3. Background

The Region's Transportation Master Plan promotes active transportation options, like cycling, to travel safely and reliably through the Region

The Region continues to promote and encourage active and eco-friendly ways of travelling, such as cycling. Regional road corridors include high-quality facilities, such as designated and shared bike facilities, to help provide more eco-friendly options and support healthy and complete communities. During development of the 2022 Transportation Master Plan, we heard that residents want more sustainable transportation options, like cycling, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The move to lower-carbon options also contributes to healthier communities by encouraging more physical activity and reducing traffic-related pollution and noise. To make active transportation easier and safer for all travellers, the TMP identifies road widening projects that include the addition of multi-use paths for bicycle and pedestrian traffic, or dedicated cycle tracks in roadside boulevards.

Lane Designation Bylaw 2020-53 allows for exclusive use of certain classes of vehicles on Regional roads

The *Municipal Act, 2001* gives a municipal council the authority to pass bylaws respecting highways, including parking and traffic. Bylaw 2020-53 designates specific lanes on Regional roads for exclusive use of certain classes of vehicles. Only the assigned vehicle class is permitted to operate in a designated lane, unless exempted by the bylaw. To add or remove a lane designation, the bylaw requires amendment.

May 2022, Council approved bicycle lane designations on portions of Bayview Avenue/ Prospect Street in the Town of Newmarket as part of a road resurfacing project

On [May 26, 2022](#), Council approved specific bicycle lane designations on portions of Bayview Avenue/Prospect Street in the Town of Newmarket, between 1st Street/Pearson Street and Mulock Court and between Srigley Street and Timothy Street. In fall 2021, a road resurfacing project along Bayview Avenue/Prospect Street, between Mulock Drive and Gorham Street, provided an opportunity for the Region, in collaboration with the Town, to include bicycle lanes within the existing pavement width.

4. Analysis

Designating bicycle lanes requires a bylaw approved by Council

Designating lanes for the exclusive use of bicycles allows for separation of cyclists from motorists on the road. Bicycle lanes can be delineated from motor vehicle lanes by either pavement markings and/or physical barriers. Delineating lanes may help improve safety and comfort for cyclists by reducing the potential for conflict and injuries and could help improve overall traffic flow along the two-lane corridor. The Transportation Association of Canada

design manual suggests bike facilities reduce the likelihood of collisions relative to shared or no facilities at all. Bike lanes are positively perceived by cyclists.

Designating bicycle lanes on Ninth Line and Prospect Street will help create a safer environment for cyclists and provide a connection to existing dedicated bicycle lanes

Ninth Line between Hoover Park Drive and Metrolinx Railway Crossing

On [January 28, 2021](#), Council approved the City of Markham's request for 24-hour whistle cessation on Ninth Line along the GO Stouffville corridor. As part of the whistle cessation safety measures for the Ninth Line at-grade railway crossing south of 19th Avenue, Metrolinx will be constructing an off-road cycle track for cyclists to cross the skewed railway crossing at a right angle. Designating bicycle lanes will create consistency throughout this corridor. Currently, there is a signed shared facility bicycle route north and south of the railway crossing and dedicated bicycle lanes signed and marked north of 19th Avenue to Hoover Park Drive that require a bylaw designation (Appendix 1).

Prospect Street between Lydia Street and Timothy Street

Currently, there are designated bicycle lanes on both sides of Prospect Street between Timothy Street and Srigley Street in the Town of Newmarket. Designating the remaining bicycle lanes between Lydia Street and Timothy Street, which are currently signed and marked, will complete the cycling network along Prospect Street (Appendix 2).

The proposed bicycle lane designations are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1
Proposed Bicycle Lane Designations

Portion of Highway	Limit	Vehicle Class	Times and Days
Ninth Line (Y.R. 69) Northbound curbside lane/adjacent to curbside lane City of Markham and Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Appendix 1	From 74 metres south of the south limit of Hoover Park Drive to 143 metres north of the north limit of Donald Cousens Parkway (northbound direction)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective May 1, 2023

Portion of Highway	Limit	Vehicle Class	Times and Days
Ninth Line (Y.R. 69) Southbound curbside lane/adjacent to curbside lane City of Markham and Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Appendix 1	From 34 metres south of the south limit of Hoover Park Drive to 126 metres north of the north limit of Donald Cousens Parkway (southbound direction)	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective May 1, 2023
Prospect Street (Y.R. 34) Northbound curbside lane or boulevard as marked. Town of Newmarket Appendix 2	From north limit of Lydia Street to the south limit of Timothy Street	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective May 1, 2023
Prospect Street (Y.R. 34) Southbound curbside lane or boulevard as marked Town of Newmarket Appendix 2	From north limit of Lydia Street to the south limit of Timothy Street	Bicycles	24 hours, 7 days a week, effective May 1, 2023

On-street signage and pavement markings will be installed in spring 2023

Subject to Council approval, bicycle lane signage along with pavement markings will be implemented in spring of 2023. In partnership with City of Markham and Towns of Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville, the Region is developing a communications plan that includes media alerts, social media and information posted on [york.ca](https://www.york.ca).

5. Financial

Costs associated with the installation of pavement markings and manufacture and installation of all signage associated with these bicycle lanes are included in the approved 2023 Transportation Services Operating Budget.

6. Local Impact

City of Markham and Towns of Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville have collaborated on the proposed dedicated cycling lanes on Ninth Line and Prospect Street. Dedicating these

cycling lanes will help create a safer cycling experience, provide connections to existing cycling facilities, and expand the active transportation network.

7. Conclusion

This report seeks Council approval to designate bicycle lanes on Ninth Line in the City of Markham and Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Prospect Street in the Town of Newmarket to help create a safer operating environment for cyclists and provide connections to existing dedicated bicycle lanes. Implementation of on-street signage will be coordinated with pavement markings in spring 2023.

Bylaw amendments are required before exclusive lane designations can be implemented. Subject to Council approval, the Regional Solicitor will prepare the necessary bylaws when required and forward applicable copies to the City of Markham, Towns of Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville and Chief of York Regional Police.

For more information on this report, please contact Joseph Petrungaro, Director of Roads and Traffic Operations, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75220. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Recommended by:



Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.
Commissioner of Public Works

Approved for Submission:

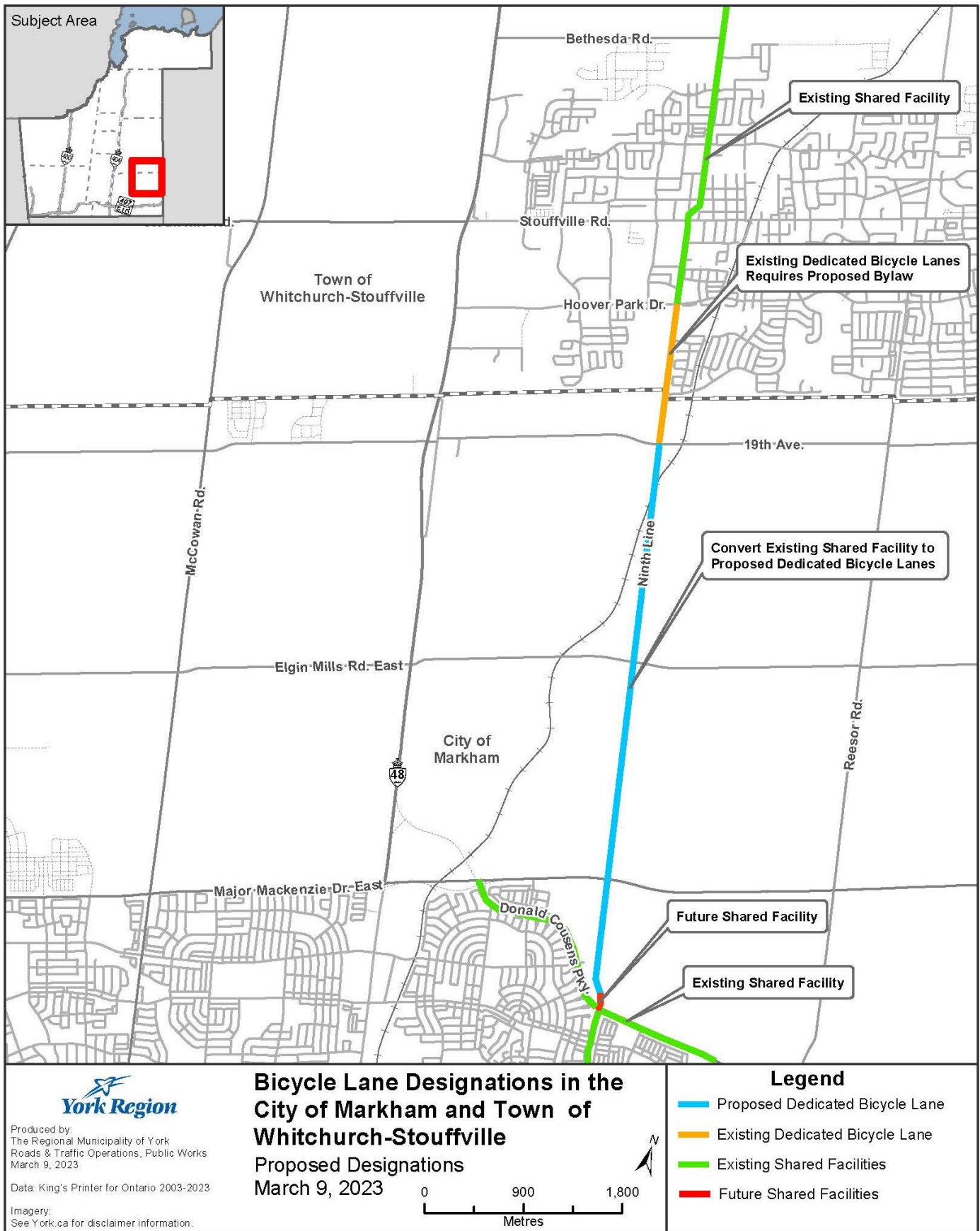


Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

February 24, 2023

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Appendix 1 – Map – Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville Bicycle Lane Designations
Appendix 2 – Map – Newmarket Bicycle Lane Designations



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